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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/747,817	12/29/2003	Naruhide Kitada	9319M-000621	1900
27572 7590 03/31/2008 HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			EXAMINER KASSA, HILINA S	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 03/31/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/747,817	Applicant(s) KITADA ET AL.	
	Examiner HILINA S. KASSA	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/29/2003</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's response to the election/restriction requirement has been acknowledged. Claim 33 is elected with respect to Species I. Claims 1-32 are not elected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Owa et al. (US Patent Number 6,348,971 B2).

Regarding claim 33:

As shown in figure 1, Owa et al. disclose a printer management server (**3, figure 1**) that is connected to a plurality of printers (**2a-2d, figure 1**) through a network (**4, figure 1**), divides print data into a plurality of print jobs and stores the print jobs (**column 8, lines 17-23; note that the generated print data which is also divided into print page and get stored in the management table**), wherein:

said printer management server:

identifies one of said print jobs to be printed (**column 8, lines 23-25; note that the printer selection means selects the appropriate printer based upon user information**);

provides said distributed print start notification to all or some of said plurality of printers (**column 8, lines 30-38; note that when a document print command is entered, the user information selection means selects the appropriate printer for the specified print data**);

selects from among printers that have issued an acquisition request for said print job a printer that is appropriate for said print job on the basis of printing capabilities (**column 8, lines 39-44; note that the appropriate printer gets selected amongst other printers based on the capabilities i.e. color or monochrome**) and status information of the printers (**column 8, lines 39-58; note that the printer gets selected based on the status or state**); and

assigns said print job to said printer (**column 8, lines 46-48; note that based on the selection the print page is converted into print data so that its it printed at an appropriate printer**).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ferlitsch et al. (US Publication Number 2002/0089687 A1) discloses a method and system for print-processor-based printer status detection and print task distribution.

Leiman et al. (US Patent Number 6,469,796 B1) disclose a method for open systems printing including routing print jobs automatically from different types of source computers to different types of printers without the source computers selecting printers for each print job.

Wanda et al. (US Patent Number 7,061,635 B1) discloses a requested print job is divided and distributed to a plurality of printer to efficiently and correctly print data of the print job.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Hilina Kassa whose telephone number is (571) 270-1676.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore could be reached at (571) 272- 7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about PAIR system, see <http://pari-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

Application/Control Number: 10/747,817

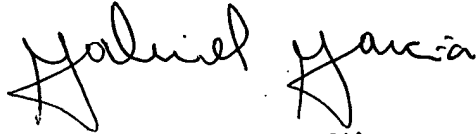
Page 5

Art Unit: 2625

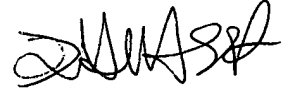
Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call
800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hilina Kassa

February 27, 2008

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gabriel Garcia". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "G" and a trailing flourish.

GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilina Kassa". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "H" and a trailing flourish.